

DISCLAIMER

This electronic version of an SCC order is for informational purposes only and is not an official document of the Commission. An official copy may be obtained from the [Clerk of the Commission, Document Control Center.](#)

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, DECEMBER 29, 1999

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

At the relation of the

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

CASE NO. PUA990054

Ex Parte: In the matter of
adopting additions and
amendments to the Commission's
rules governing the filing of
utility rate increase applications

ORDER GRANTING MOTION

On December 28, 1999, Virginia Electric and Power Company, Appalachian Power Company, d/b/a American Electric Power, Kentucky Utilities Company, d/b/a Old Dominion Power, Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc., Virginia Natural Gas, Inc., Delmarva Power & Light Company, Atmos Energy Corp., d/b/a United Cities Gas Company, Virginia-American Water Company, Washington Gas Light Company, the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives, and the Office of Attorney General's Division of Consumer Counsel (collectively, "Movants") filed a joint motion for an extension of time in which to file comments and requests for hearing in this proceeding. The Movants request that the date for filing comments

and requests for hearing be extended from January 5, 2000, to February 7, 2000.

In support of their motion, Movants cite, among other things, the Staff's comprehensive review of the existing Commission Rules Governing Utility Rate Increase Applications and Annual Informational Filings ("Rate Case Rules") and the Rules Governing Streamlined Rate Proceedings and General Rate Proceedings for Electric Cooperatives Subject to the State Corporation Commission's Rate Jurisdiction ("Cooperative Rules") (collectively, "Rules"), and the Staff's recommendations in its November 9, 1999, Report for significant changes and additions to the filing requirements contained in the Rules.

Movants state that the changes to the Rules proposed in the Staff Report raise issues that are of fundamental importance to the manner in which the public utility industry in Virginia will be regulated in the future, and that Movants would benefit from an additional month in which to further study the impacts of the Staff's proposed changes and to develop their comments. Such additional time, according to the Movants, would greatly enhance the record and the Commission's considerations in this proceeding. Movants state that no interested party would be prejudiced by the requested extension.

NOW THE COMMISSION, upon consideration of the motion, finds that the request is not unreasonable and should be granted. We note that one utility, Potomac Edison Company, d/b/a Allegheny Power, has

already filed its comments although our order of November 19, 1999, extended the date for filing comments from December 21, 1999, to January 5, 2000. To afford all interested parties equal time to develop their respective comments, we will permit Allegheny Power, and any other party that may file comments on or before January 5, 2000, because it is unaware of this order at the time of its filing, to file supplemental comments on or before February 7, 2000.

The Commission also notes that Va. Code § 56-582 requires eligible electric utilities desiring to modify their capped rates to file rate applications by January 1, 2001. Granting this extension will likely delay the issuance of a final order on the new Rules, thereby shortening the time within which utilities will have to prepare their rate case filings. The utilities will of course be required to meet this statutory filing deadline. Accordingly,

IT IS ORDERED:

(1) The date by which comments and requests for hearing shall be filed on the Staff Report of November 9, 1999, is extended from January 5, 2000, to February 7, 2000.

(2) Any party having filed comments on or before January 5, 2000, may file supplemental comments on or before February 7, 2000.

(3) This matter is continued for further orders of the Commission.